

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MANILA 14227

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EXDIS

E.9. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
ROMULO

FOR HABIB FROM SULLIVAN

REF: STATE 229228

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN THAT GOP MAY GIVE APPEARANCE
OF SEEKING TO SHIFT FOCUS FOR FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS TO
WASHINGTON. IT IS CLEAR THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE CONTRARY
TO OUR UNDERSTANDINGS WITH MARCOS THAT ROMULO MEETING WITH
SECRETARY WOULD BE INFORMAL SESSION DESIGNED TO DISCUSS
BASIC ISSUES.

2. IN MY OWN JUDGMENT, DISPATCH OF ENRILE AND MILITARY
BACKUP TEAM DOES NOT RPT NOT CONSTITUTE DEPARTURE FROM
ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDINGS. THERE IS VERY LITTLE LIKELIHOOD
THAT MARCOS WOULD EVER PERMIT THE ULTIMATE NEGOTIATIONS
TO TAKE PLACE ANYWHERE EXCEPT IN MANILA AND ESSENTIALLY
BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE SECRETARY.

3. TRAVEL OF ENRILE AND MILITARY TEAM (THEY LEFT MANILA
FOR WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 15) REFLECTS BASIC MILITARY
DISTRUST OF ROMULO'S CAPABILITIES AND UNCERTAINTY THAT
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ROMUALDEZ WILL TAKE HARD ENOUGH LINE ON "BASIC ISSUES".

ENRILE HAS THEREFORE BEEN SENT ALONG TO INSURE THAT SECRETARY DOES NOT OVERWHELM ROMULO. ENRILE, IN TURN, HAS PROBABLY ASKED THE MILITARY TEAM TO ACCOMPANY HIM BECAUSE HE DOES NOT FEEL SUFFICIENTLY ACQUAINTED WITH ALL THE DETAILS AND WANTS TO AVOID MILITARY CRITICISM OF ANY POSITIONS HE MAY TAKE.

4. I EXPECT THE ONLY PERSON WHO WOULD JOIN ROMULO AND ROMUALDEZ IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY WOULD BE ENRILE HIMSELF. THE COLONELS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN BACKGROUND, MUCH AS THEY HAVE DONE HERE IN MANILA. THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU HAVE SOME INDICATIONS WHICH I HAVE NOT RECEIVED, I DOUBT I NEED TO "CONVEY TO GOP THAT WE DO NOT PLAN TO SHIFT FOCUS FOR FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS." IF YOU NEVERTHELESS FEEL SOME NEED TO GET THIS POINT ACROSS, PROBABLY THE BEST INTERLOCUTORS ARE EITHER ROMUALDEZ OR ROMULO, HIMSELF, SINCE HE WILL ARRIVE IN NEW YORK SEPT. 17.

5. IF I AM TO RETURN FOR SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING, I WOULD HOPE TO HAVE TWO OR THREE DAYS DISCUSSION WITH YOU AND OTHERS IN ADVANCE OF THAT SESSION TO GIVE YOU SOME ASSESSMENTS I HAVE NOT PUT IN WRITTEN FORM. SULLIVAN

SECRET

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